of electrically actuable valves for introducing a plurality of selected solvents successively into the inlet port of said column; a source of electromagnetic radiation of such wave-length that it is absorbed by being passed through a solution comprising one of said solvents and said material, said absorbing being proportional to the concentration of said material in said solution; a cell connected to the discharge port of said column for receiving solution discharged therefrom, said cell including means permitting a beam of said electro-magnetic radiation to pass through said cell, and said source being positioned with respect to said cell to pass a beam of said radiant energy through said cell; conduit means connected to said cell for conducting said solution away from said cell; photo-electric means receiving said beam after said beam passes through said cell and responsive to the intensity of said beam after it has passed through solution within said cell; and electrical means connected to said photo-electric means for actuating said valves immediately upon the diminution to a predetermined point



of the concentration of said material in the solution within said cell for closing one of said valves and opening another thereof.

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